



**CITY OF DURHAM**  
Office of Public Affairs  
101 CITY HALL PLAZA  
DURHAM, NC 27701

## News Release

### News Media Contact:

Amy Blalock  
Public Affairs Manager  
(919) 560-4123 x 11253  
(919) 475-7735 (mobile)  
[Amy.Blalock@DurhamNC.gov](mailto:Amy.Blalock@DurhamNC.gov)  
<http://Facebook.com/CityofDurhamNC>  
<http://Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC>  
<http://Instagram.com/CityofDurhamNC>  
<http://YouTube.com/CityofDurhamNC>

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**Share!** Most @CityofDurhamNC offices, including #Durham City Hall & all non-emergency operations, are delayed until 10 a.m. on Fri., Jan. 19. Garbage & recycling collections schedule revised due to icy neighborhood streets.

## Durham Delays City Hall Opening on January 19

*24-Hour Snow Plowing Efforts Underway; Garbage & Recycling Collections Schedule Revised*

DURHAM, N.C. – After receiving [nearly a foot of snow](#) in the Bull City on Wednesday most City of Durham offices, including City Hall and all non-emergency City departments, will have a delayed opening on Friday, January 19 at 10 a.m. due to continued icy conditions on many secondary and neighborhood streets.

The regular [City Council Work Session](#), originally scheduled for today at 1 p.m., has now been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 23 at 10 a.m. This meeting will take place in the Committee Room on the second floor of City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza, and will be audio live-streamed on the [City's website](#).

The City's Public Works Department prepared for the now-historic snowfall by prepping 32 snow plows, and spreading more than 30,000 gallons of brine on all of the city's primary roads as well as secondary streets. Crews began 12-hour shifts on Tuesday evening, and will continue with this round-the-clock shift schedule until primary routes, bridges, secondary streets, and residential streets are clear. "This was an unusual winter storm for our area, bringing much higher snowfall totals than we usually see in this part of North Carolina, so we're tasked with clearing almost one foot of snow from more than 1,000 lane miles on our primary routes alone, with another 2,000+ lane miles to cover on our residential streets," said Public Works Director Marvin Williams. "We're throwing everything we have at it, but with temperatures back below

freezing tonight – which prevents salt from being effective – we expect significant re-freezing. In short, this is going to take a while and we appreciate the patience of our residents as we work to get our streets passable.”

Williams said that primary street plowing efforts continued through last night and today, with his crews now addressing secondary streets tonight and tomorrow. He said the goal is to begin residential plowing by tomorrow afternoon, which will last into tomorrow night and over the weekend. “We want to remind our residents to make every effort to move their abandoned vehicles as quickly as possible as this makes plowing more difficult when vehicles are left in the travel lane,” Williams said. “We’re also coordinating with the Solid Waste Management Department so our residential plowing efforts are focused on the routes that are due for curbside collections first.” For information on the department’s street-clearing order, snow plowing routes, and maps, visit the [department’s webpage](#).

Since many of the city’s neighborhood streets are still too icy for garbage and recycling trucks to safely maneuver, the City’s [Solid Waste Management Department](#) is revising its previously announced collection schedules as follows:

- Regular Tuesday garbage customers will be collected on their normal collection day next week, which is Tuesday, January 23. Regular Tuesday recycling customers will be collected on Saturday, January 20.
- Regular Wednesday garbage and recycling customers will receive their collections on Saturday, January 20. Any missed collections will receive service on Sunday, January 21.
- Regular Thursday garbage and recycling customers will receive their collections on Sunday, January 21.

According to Solid Waste Management Director Donald Long, this snowstorm coming in on a week where collections were already delayed one day due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday has impacted his department’s ability to catch up. “We understand that our customers are frustrated and want us there immediately to collect their garbage and recycling, but we simply don’t have the equipment or staffing levels to get there sooner,” Long said. “We also don’t want to endanger anyone by driving in 33-ton trucks on icy neighborhood streets. So, we ask for continued patience from our residents. Rest assured, we will work all weekend to get as many customers collected as possible, and we appreciate everyone’s continued patience.”

Yard waste and bulky item collections, along with exempt customers, are suspended until next week to allow these crews to assist with garbage and recycling collections, and to help ensure the safety of crews working in neighborhoods. The Waste Disposal and Recycling Center (Transfer Station) will re-open on a delayed schedule on Friday, January 19 at 10 a.m., and will also operate under extended hours on Saturday, January 20 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Center will accept live Christmas trees on both days, but will be unable to accept yard waste due to icy conditions at the [Yard Waste Facility](#).

As a reminder, the [E-Waste Recycling, Paper Shredding, and Live Christmas Tree Disposal event](#), previously scheduled for Saturday, January 20, is canceled to allow crews to focus on garbage and recycling collections on Saturday. This event will be rescheduled at a later date.

Residents are reminded that police, fire, and rescue services for life-threatening or in-progress emergencies may be reached by calling 911. Non-emergency concerns may be directed to (919) 560-4600. To stay up-to-date on all changes to City operations and programs, visit <http://DurhamNC.gov> and follow @CityofDurhamNC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Residents may also contact Durham One Call at (919) 560-1200 for more information.

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